

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the very thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-20 remain pending in the application. Claim 1 is independent.

The Office Action dated October 8, 2008 has been received and carefully reviewed. Each issue raised in the Office Action is addressed below. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested inasmuch as the instant amendment is believed to resolve the outstanding issues raised in the Office Action under *Ex parte Quayle*, and thereby automatically place the application in condition for allowance.

Priority Under 35 U.S.C. § 119

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, and receipt of the certified priority document.

Objections to the Specification

The Office Action indicated that the original Title of the Invention is not descriptive. Responsive thereto, Applicants have amended the Title to "IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS CAPABLE OF SUPPRESSING DEVELOPER WASTE". Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested in view of the instant amendment. Applicants are not aware of any additional errors in the balance of the specification.

Allowance of the Claims

Applicants appreciate that the prior requirement for election of species has been withdrawn and all claims have been indicated as allowable, subject to correction of minor informalities in the claims.

Objection to the Claims

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 1, 4, 7, 12, 13, 16, 18, 19 and 20 for having insufficient antecedent basis, which we address with the instant amendment. By this reply, Applicants have adopted the helpful suggestions of the Examiner in clarifying the

language without altering the claim scope. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been properly traversed and addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Notice of same is earnestly solicited.

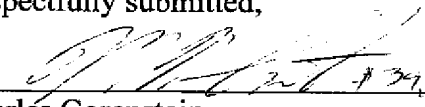
Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Paul T. Sewell, Registration No. 61,784, at (703) 205-8000, in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: December 4, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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